Statement

Regarding illegal construction in Kanpur Cantonment Area

(a) to (d) As many as 29 cases of unauthorized constructions were detected during the last one year. Prosecution action has already been taken under Section 184, 185 and 256 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, for removal of these illegal constructions. These unauthorized constructions have not caused any financial loss.

No case of unauthorized construction for commercial purposes has been detected during the last one year. Pandit's Upvan, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kanpur, is a Cantonment Fund Property given on licence by the Cantonment Board, Kanpur. Some repairs/renovation of the premises were carried out to the premises by the licensee with the permission of the Cantonment Board.

No Cantonment Board official is at fault.

No time frame has been fixed for demolition of such illegal constructions as action against these can only be taken subject to availability of police assistance, etc.

Resignation of Air Marshal Manjit Singh Sekhon

4416. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Air Marshal Manjit Singh Sekhon has been asked to put in his papers by the Air Force Chief;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore;

(c) whether Air Marshal Sekhon has since complied with this directive; and

(d) if fiot, what steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken with regard to the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Subsequent to the report published in the media regarding Air Marshal Manjit Singh Sekhon having approached the then Chief

Minister of Punjab seeking political influence for a favourable posting, which has been admitted by the Air Officer, he was asked to put in his papers and the Air Officer has complied.

Purchase of Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) from Poland

†4417. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to purchase Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) from Poland; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A contract has been signed for supply of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARV) with M/s Bharat Earth Movers Ltd:, a Defence Public Sector Undertaking who have acquired transfer of technology from a Polish company for assembly of the vehicle.

Live Shells and Explosives Sold as Garbage by Defence Forces

†4418. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that at times even live shells and explosives are auctioned in the garbage disposed off by the defence forces;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at times the said shells get exploded at shops or any other places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to order an enquiry as whether terrorists are making use of such shells or explosive materials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No live shells and explosive material are auctioned alongwith sale of scrap by Defence forces.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.